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LETTER DATED 30 JUNE 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the letter, dated 22 June 1992 from the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Alija Izetbegović.

May I ask for your kind assistance in having the letter distributed to the member Missions of the Security Council, and having the letter entered as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 22 June 1992 from His Excellency Mr. Alija Izetbegović, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform you of the decision of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina to proclaim a State of War in our country. The purpose of this proclamation is the mobilization of our population and our resources in defence of our country against the aggression which has not only ceased since the passing of Security Council resolution 752, but has escalated from day to day with ever-increasing brutality.

Yesterday, in the centre of Sarajevo alone, artillery shells have killed 19 persons and badly wounded 87. The enemy ring around the city is being strengthened with fresh troops and new heavy weapons. Airplanes of the Yugoslav Army have bombarded Goražde and Visoko. New enemy forces are on their way from Serbia and Montenegro.

The regular forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina are respecting the 48-hour cease-fire arranged by UNPROFOR in order to enable the process of opening Sarajevo airport to continue in accordance with Security Council resolution 758. We are concerned that the airport should open as soon as possible, so that the humanitarian aid which the half million besieged citizens of Sarajevo have been awaiting for two months can be brought in.

We continue to believe that the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina can only be stopped by military intervention under the aegis of the United Nations. Such an intervention could be limited to air attacks against selected targets /the aggressor's concentrations of artillery, and his airfields in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro/. I therefore beg you to give your support to such an action in accordance with Article 7 of the United Nations Charter.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this communication as a document of the Security Council.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Alija Izetbegović
President of the Presidency
of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In view of the fact that the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the victim of aggression carried out by the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Montenegro, the Yugoslav Army and terrorists of the Serbian Democratic Party,

- and that this aggression has been confirmed by the Security Council of the United Nations in resolution number 752 of 18 May 1992,

- and that this aggression has continued after the passing of the said resolution of the Security Council,

- and that this aggression is being accompanied by brutal genocide against the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a result of which until now more than 40,000 people have been killed, about 1,400,000 citizens forcibly uprooted from their homes, and more than 60,000 of these incarcerated in concentration camps,

- and that the aggressor is continuing systematically to destroy civil, industrial, religious and other buildings,

- and that the aggressor has occupied some 70 per cent of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and is refusing to end the aggression,

- and on the basis of the right to self-defence which is recognized by international law,

The Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the basis of Amendment LI, paragraph 5, section 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its session held on 20 June 1992 decided to proclaim

A STATE OF WAR

1. State of War is proclaimed on the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. The proclamation of a State of War has as its aim to make possible, on the basis of the right of citizens to individual and collective self-defence, a more effective engagement of all human and material potential at home and abroad for the liberation of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the aggressor, as well as restoration of the damaged legal order and the creation of conditions for the return of all uprooted citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to their homes.

3. The armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina are empowered to take all necessary measures for the organization of nationwide resistance for the attainment of these goals.

4. The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina will observe the requirements of international law and of the international conventions which regulate the behaviour of States in a State of War, and in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, will respect the decisions and initiatives

of the Security Council concerned with the establishment and maintenance of peace and security. The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina will, together with the United Nations Security Council, the European Community, and other international institutions, continue to seek for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina by means of talks which are in harmony with its dignity, independence, integrity and territorial wholeness. In this regard the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina remains open to all relevant initiatives.

5. The Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina will inform the Security Council of the United Nations of this decision.

6. This decision comes into force on the day on which it was made, and will be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

(Signed) Alija Izetbegovic
President of the Presidency
of Bosnia and Herzegovina

20 June 1992